

## **Salutations**

### **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Weather and climate forms the integral part of the socioeconomic development of every country; but also, over 50% of natural disasters in the world are climate related. Over 2000 natural disasters have been experienced in Africa alone since 1970 and affecting more than 460 million people;

Even future projections indicate that up to 118 million poor people will be exposed to drought by 2030;

This does not spare the sub-Saharan African countries such as Malawi which is having an increase in extreme events. Malawi is being affected by tropical cyclones and between 2019 and 2022 three devastating cyclones have resulted into floods and affected almost 1 million people per event. The losses and damages that came due to 2019 floods were in the order of USD 200 million while the estimated costs for recovery was over 350 million.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

Though Malawi is being affected like this, its contribution towards global emissions is only 0.11 tons per capita. While USA's emission is 141 times more at 15.52 tons per capita.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

As Malawi was struggling to recover from the 2019 tropical cyclone it has been hit again not only by one but two cyclones this year alone. All this because of the ever-increasing temperature on both land and ocean that is making it conducive for the development of tropical cyclones.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

This is why, the Paris Agreement needs to be adhered to, to limit temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It is time for policy makers to listen to the science and act accordingly. We have done the talking and it is now time for action. We are in climate crisis and if we cannot take climate action for ourselves at least let us do this for the future generation.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

It is noted that political will alone will not solve the climate change problem, but also engagement of everyone is key. Each one of us has a role to take to advance climate action. And as policy makers we have a big role to make sure that climate change is mainstreamed in all sectoral policies.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

Climate change adaptation is very important in countries such as Malawi for the survival, more critically the vulnerable groups. The Paris Agreement which aims to increase the ability

of parties to adapt to climate change effects, and mobilise sufficient finance is important for the resilience enhancement.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

The Paris Agreement builds on the financial commitments of the 2009 Copenhagen Accord, which aimed to scale up public and private climate finance for developing nations to \$100 billion a year by 2020. The same Copenhagen Accord created the Green Climate Fund to help mobilize transformational private finance using targeted public dollars. Sadly, the collective contributions continue to fall short. And yet the developing nations like Malawi continue to struggle to adapt to devastating climate extremes one after another.

It is the plea to all the nations to adhere to the Paris Agreement for the sake of the future generation to save the world. Now it is the time to coordinate our efforts and build partnerships, bringing together all stakeholders to join forces in combating climate change. It is my wish that this debate will come up with solutions and ideas that will enhance the resilience of the common rural person who is striving to adapt to climate change effects.

Otherwise, I wish you all fruitful deliberations as we take part in climate action. Thank you